Case 2910

Cubaris murina Brandt, 1833 (Crustacea, Isopoda): proposed conservation of both the generic and specific names

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the generic and specific names of the pantropical conglobating isopod *Cubaris murina* Brandt, 1833. The generic name is threatened by the senior homonym *Cubaris* Billberg, 1820, whilst the specific name is threatened by the senior subjective synonym *Armadillo galbineus* Eschscholtz, 1823. *Cubaris* Billberg is a junior objective synonym of *Asellus* Geoffroy, 1762, which was conserved in Opinion 1754 (March 1994). Both *Cubaris* Billberg and *A. galbineus* have remained unused and their suppression is proposed. It is also proposed that the unused specific name of *Cubaris brunnea* Brandt, 1833 be suppressed.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Isopoda; *Cubaris*; *Cubaris marina*.

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1. The name *Asellus* Geoffroy, 1762 (p. 671) was conserved in Opinion 1754 (BZN **51**: 58–70; March 1994) with *Oniscus aquaticus* Linnaeus, 1758 (p. 637) as the type species by subsequent monotypy by Fourcroy (1785, p. 541). *O. aquaticus* refers to the water slater found in fresh water throughout Europe; it was the only taxonomic species included in the genus by Geoffroy (1762).

2. Billberg (1820, p. 137) proposed the generic name *Cubaris*. Billberg's work was published as a catalogue which was considered by some of his contemporaries as only the privately printed listing of a private collection. However, Walsingham & Durrant (1902, p. 163) noted: 'From general appearance the book would appear to have been properly published, and has been accepted as published by those who have dealt with it'. There was no description of the genus but *Cubaris* was based on three synonymies: *Asellus* 'Ltr.' (Latreille, 1803, i.e. Geoffroy, 1762), *Idotea* 'Fbr.' (i.e. Fabricius, 1796) and *Entomon* 'Kln.' (= Klein?). Billberg used the abbreviation 'Eg.' (= Ego) to mean 'Auctor hujus operis' and it seems that he gave a new name to each of the many groups of genera he synonymized. Hummel (1825, p. 3) commented that Billberg 'a fait tout son possible pour augmenter la confusion dans la synonymie des genres, en créant de nouvelles dénominations absurdes' and referred to 'innovations mal fondées et passablement ridicules'. Walsingham & Durrant analyzed the work and agreed with Hummel; they commented (1902, p. 170): 'We have been unable to discover a single genus which can be accepted as valid'. In his *Index Animalium*, Sherborn (1922, p. xxiv) noted: 'I agree with Walsingham & Durrant ... as to this

[Billberg's] book' and (1925, p. 1669) listed *Cubaris* as a nomen dubium. Nevertheless *Cubaris* is an available name (Article 12b(1) and 12b(5) of the Code). *Oniscus aquaticus* Linnaeus, 1758 was the only included species in the genus and is therefore the type species by monotypy. *Cubaris* Billberg is thus a junior objective synonym of *Asellus* Geoffroy, 1762 (see para. 1 above). The latter name has always been used for the genus including *O. aquaticus* and Billberg's name has been completely forgotten. Billberg's library and his first collection, which were listed in the *Enumeratio*, were destroyed by fire in 1822 and thus none of this original material survives (see Walsingham & Durrant, 1902, p. 164).

3. Brandt (1833, p. 189) proposed the name *Cubaris* for a genus of several new, uniformly coloured, conglobating terrestrial isopods, including (p. 190) *C. cinerea*, *C. murina*, *C. brunnea* and *C. limbata*. Budde-Lund (1885, p. 28; see also 1904, p. 120) synonymized *murina* and *brunnea* and noted that *cinerea* was probably also synonymous; he adopted *murina* as the valid name. In 1909 Budde-Lund (p. 54) designated *murina* as the type species of *Cubaris*, which he treated as a subgenus of *Armadillo* Latreille, 1802. The name *Cubaris* has been very widely used at generic rank and, to our knowledge, no author has ever mentioned that it is a junior homonym. Furthermore, in our revisional work on the genus we have not so far found a valid synonym for *Cubaris* Brandt. To maintain the stability of usage of the latter name we propose that *Cubaris* Billberg be suppressed.

4. Brandt (1833, p. 189) proposed the family-group name 'Cubaridea' to include *Cubaris* and *Armadillo*. *Cubaris* and a large number of tropical genera related to it are not close to *Armadillo* and the name CUBARIDAE is now widely used at family level for the largest group of conglobating isopods, found world-wide.

5. Eschscholtz (1823, p. 112) described *Armadillo galbineus* from Guam. No type material is known to exist. The description is poor but most probably refers to a rather large, dull coloured conglobating species. Budde-Lund (1885, p. 39) listed *A. galbineus* as a nomen dubium; in 1904 (p. 120) he noted that *galbineus* was probably a synonym of *C. murina*, although there are a few other species of CUBARIDAE (ARMADILLIDAE auctt.) which would fit the description given for *galbineus*. *Cubaris murina* is pantropical; it is common in the Pacific islands, including Guam. We propose that stability in the nomenclature should be maintained by suppressing *A. galbineus*. The names *Cubaris* and *murina* have been consistently used in the literature (recent publications include those by Vandel, 1973; Ferrara & Taiti, 1979; Schmalfuss, 1983; Green, Ferrara & Taiti, 1990; and Taiti, Ferrara & Kwon, 1992).

6. The synonymy of *Cubaris brunnea* Brandt, 1833 from Demerary (i.e. Georgetown, Guyana) with *C. murina* Brandt, 1833 (see para. 3 above) is highly uncertain and *C. brunnea* remains a nomen dubium. As such it is a threat to the name of any non-specialized conglobating isopod from the northern parts of South America. Since the work of Budde-Lund (1909) it has not been listed as a valid name and we propose that *brunnea* be suppressed.

7. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the following names:
  (a) the generic name *Cubaris* Billberg, 1820, and all uses of the name *Cubaris* prior to the publication of *Cubaris* Brandt, 1833, for the purposes of both the Principle of Priority and the Principle of Homonymy;

(b) the following specific names for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy:
   (i) *galbineus* Eschscholtz, 1823, as published in the binomen *Armadillo galbineus*;
   (ii) *brunnea* Brandt, 1833, as published in the binomen *Cubaris brunnea*;

(2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Cubaris* Brandt, 1833 (gender: feminine), type species by subsequent designation by Budde-Lund (1909) *Cubaris murina* Brandt, 1833;

(3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *murina* Brandt, 1833, as published in the binomen *Cubaris murina* (specific name of the type species of *Cubaris* Brandt, 1833);

(4) to place on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology the name CUBARIDAE Brandt, 1833 (type genus *Cubaris* Brandt, 1833);

(5) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the name *Cubaris* Billberg, 1820, as suppressed in (1)(a) above;

(6) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
   (a) *galbineus* Eschscholtz, 1823, as published in the binomen *Armadillo galbineus* and as suppressed in (1)(b)(i) above;
   (b) *brunnea* Brandt, 1833, as published in the binomen *Cubaris brunnea* and as suppressed in (1)(b)(ii) above.

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